

## Stay in touch with Representative Goodin

### Online

The official Web site for the State of Indiana is at [www.in.gov](http://www.in.gov). This is a good place to start if you're interested in information about Indiana and various government services.

Additionally, each representative has a Web site with information on his or her background, education and contact information. My site is at [www.in.gov/H66](http://www.in.gov/H66). There you may also learn about bills that I have filed, read past newsletters, and apply to become a page or an intern.



### Becoming a page

Serving as a page during the 2003 session allows any child age 13 or older the opportunity to gain a firsthand glimpse of how the legislative system works. Students will be excused from school on the day they are serving as a page and will spend the entire day at the Statehouse.

Interested students should send me their name, parent or guardian's name, address, phone number, school and two different dates when the student could come to the Statehouse between now and late April, 2003.

Please note that positions fill up quickly, so apply as soon as possible!

### In person

Sessions of the Indiana General Assembly are open to the public. You may observe the House yourself, seeing our democratic system at work. I hope that you'll keep informed and stay involved, and let me know if there is anything I can do to assist you or your family.



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# Terry Goodin

Indiana State Representative, District 66



*Contact*  
**Representative  
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STATE OF INDIANA  
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FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
ROADS & TRANSPORTATION

Winter, 2003

Dear Friends:

The 2003 legislative session has begun, which means the legislature will be working over the next few months to fulfill our constitutional duty of preparing a biennial budget. This will be no small task, as 33 states have reported revenue collections below forecasted levels through last October, and Indiana is no exception.

Nevertheless, I hope we can provide reasonable solutions to our budget problems, and my goal is that those solutions will allow Indiana residents an opportunity to improve our collective quality of life in this increasingly challenging time.

I have introduced a variety of bills that I hope will garner support for passage in the coming weeks, some of which I have detailed inside. Among the issues that I am focusing on are an Indiana product trademark, the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence, proper disposal of the state flag, prepaid college tuition and motor vehicle financial responsibility. I am also working on an initiative to help students improve their ISTEP+ exam scores and allowing military identification to be used to obtain a driver's license.

As always, thank you for the opportunity to represent the 66th district, and please let me know if there is anything that I can do for you or your family. Best wishes for the new year.

Sincerely,

*Terry*

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## Prepaid tuition bill will aid families

Parents would be able to begin setting aside money now for their children's upcoming college education under a proposal I have authored. House Bill 1349 would establish a pre-paid college program administered by the Indiana Education Savings Authority that would enable parents to make advance payments on tuition, registration and room and board costs at a community college or university in the state.

Under the system set up in House Bill 1349, a child's parents would be able to enter into a contract with the state to set aside a fixed amount each month that would be applied toward the various costs of going to college.

The benefit of the program is that the amounts paid by parents for these expenses would be fixed now, so they would not face higher costs down the road. The state would guarantee the amounts that would be paid.

Pre-paid tuition programs are one of two types of plans that generally are offered by states as a method to allow parents to save for a child's

college education. The college savings plan presently offered in Indiana does not guarantee tuition costs, House Bill 1349 does.

Both programs are considered Section 529 plans, which allow people to take part without having to pay federal income taxes.

Through the program proposed in House Bill 1349, we can give parents the chance to lock in the amount they would have to pay in the future. They will not have to worry about unexpected costs, because the state will guarantee the amount they will be required to contribute. By expanding the types of costs that will be covered under this program, and ensuring that parents will pay a fixed amount, I believe we will remove one of the bigger barriers that prevent our young people from going on to college.



REP. GOODIN DISCUSSES LEGISLATION WITH LT. GOV. JOE KERNAN.

## Goodin resumes efforts to penalize uninsured motorists

My efforts to enact tougher penalties against motorists who drive without insurance will continue in the 2003 session of the Indiana General Assembly.

For a second consecutive year, I have filed legislation making failure to provide financial responsibility a Class C misdemeanor rather than a Class A infraction. If the change is enacted into law, a person found guilty of the violation could receive up to 60 days in jail and fines of up to \$500, as well as suspension of his or her license for up to a year.

Since 2003 will be a long session, I am very hopeful that we

will have the time needed to give this plan the consideration it deserves.

While this bill received overwhelming support in the House last session, it did not get a hearing in the Indiana Senate.

It is my belief that this change in state law would be a major step in making Indiana's roads safer. State laws currently on the books are simply not sufficient to deter people without car insurance from getting behind the wheel.

Present state law sets the penalties for first-time violation of Indiana's financial responsibil-

ity law at loss of license for 90 days and fines.

These penalties give no reason for uninsured motorists to show any concern that they will pay a price if they break the law. By allowing these drivers to stay on the road, we increase the risk of serious accidents that can kill or injure people and destroy property.

People who habitually break the law simply to avoid financial responsibility for their actions behind the wheel must realize that driving is a privilege, and they must pay a penalty for their negligence.

## Goodin proceeds with bill allowing Pledge, moment of silence

As promised last summer, I have filed legislation that would give Hoosier children the chance to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and observe a moment of silence in the classroom each school day.

House Bill 1084, to be considered during this legislative session, would allow school corporations to provide a daily opportunity for students to voluntarily recite the Pledge. School corporations also would gain the ability to establish a 30-second period of silence in classrooms on each school day. In addition, the bill requires the display of a U.S. flag in each classroom.

This legislation is designed to give our kids the assurance that they will have the chance to pay tribute to their country. Patriotism and faith are two virtues that deserve attention when providing our children with a well-rounded education, and I believe House Bill 1084 provides a useful means to incorporate these values in each school day.

I first attempted this plan during the 2002 legislative session, but chose not to press for a House committee vote on the issue.

Since that time, though, a federal appeals court has thrown into question the constitutionality of reciting the Pledge in a classroom because of the phrase "one nation under God." The matter has yet to be resolved, but the ensuing public outrage



REP. GOODIN STUDIES LEGISLATION IN THE HOUSE CHAMBER.

over the court's initial decision compelled me to re-file this legislation.

It is my belief that whenever radicals start fiddling around with the core fundamentals of our nation, it is the responsibility of legislators to protect the rights of the people they serve.

I want to make it very clear that my bill would not require any student to recite the pledge or observe a moment of silence. If a child does not choose to participate, they would not have to take part and classroom teachers would be required to help ensure that freedom of choice is allowed and encouraged.

At a time when it appears we are on the verge of going to war, I believe this is a perfect time to make sure that all Americans have a chance to demonstrate their support for our country and the principles upon which it was founded. If this bill gives our children the opportunity to reflect upon the values that can make them better citizens, then I feel we must proceed to enact this proposal into law.

## Bill to design state trademark passed in committee

I am pleased that the House Insurance, Corporations, and Small Business Committee has passed HB 1055, a bill that I authored, which would require the Indiana Department of Commerce to adopt a "Made in Indiana" trademark before July 1, 2004. This trademark would be used to identify products that are produced or assembled in Indiana.

This is a very simple bill. We've all seen stickers that read 'This product was proudly made in the state of X.' This would give Hoosiers the opportunity to proudly display that a product was made in the state of Indiana.

The bill requires the Indiana Department of Commerce to register the trademark with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Registering the logo as a patent is important to maintain authenticity.

This trademark won't be mandatory for the products made in Indiana. Instead, it would be an option if companies wish to use it.

Once the bill passes and becomes law, committee members discussed having a contest to come up with the logo.

HB 1055 will now progress to the House floor for further consideration.